

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIR REP. BOB LAKE**, on February 10, 2005
at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Gary Branae, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Bob Lake, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. John Balyeat (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Margaret H. Campbell (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Tom Facey (D)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Scott Sales (R)
Rep. Bill Warden (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)

Members Absent: Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Jim Peterson (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 551, 2/5/2005; HB 554, 2/5/2005;
HB 569, 2/7/2005; HB 571, 2/7/2005
Executive Action: HB 482

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 482

00:02:06 **Motion/Vote:** REP. BRANAE moved that HB 482 DO PASS. Motion carried 19-1 by voice vote with REP. BALYEAT voting no and REPS. COHENOUR, WISEMAN, GRINDE, PETERSON and WAITSCHIES voting aye by proxy.

HEARING ON HB 569

00:03:10 **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**
REP. WALTER MCNUTT (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB 569, Clarify classification and valuation of oil and gas pipelines.

00:03:58 REP. PETERSON arrived at hearing

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:13 John Ailke, Montana Dakota Utilities
00:12:01 Gail Abercrombie, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association
00:15:46 Jerome Anderson, Helena Attorney, Encore Acquisition Company
00:18:26 Patrick Montalban, Northern Montana Gas and Oil Producers
00:20:49 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:23:14 Gordon Morris, Director, Montana Association of Counties
00:23:52 William Duffield, Executive Director, Montana Association of Oil and Gas Counties

Informational Testimony:

00:24:33 Gene Walborn, Montana Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:31:16 REP. FACEY

Closing by Sponsor:

00:36:29 REP. WALTER MCNUTT (R), HD 37 closed the hearing on HB 569.

HEARING ON HB 551

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:37:17 **REP. GARY BRANAE (D), HD 54**, opened the hearing on
HB 551, Authorize local voted sales tax.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:42:01 Joe McClure, Executive Director, Big Sky Economic
Development Authority
00:43:54 Vince Ruegamer, Billings City Council
00:48:09 Mike Kadas, Missoula Mayor
00:51:15 Chris Kukulski, Bozeman City Manager
00:57:11 Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner
00:59:29 Tim Burton, Helena City Manager
01:02:00 Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns
01:04:24 Doug Kaercher, 1st Vice President, Montana
Association of Counties, Hill County Commissioner
01:05:31 Charles Brooks, Billings for Billings Area Chamber
of Commerce
01:07:42 Jani McCall, City of Billings, Deaconess Billings
Clinic
01:08:39 Royal Johnson, Billings, Celebrate Billings
(Montana on the Move)

EXHIBIT (tah33a01)

01:14:24 **MONICCA LINDEEN, HD 43**
01:16:21 Pat Clinch, Montana State Council of Professional
Firefighters

Opponents' Testimony:

01:17:42 Glenn Oppel, Montana Association of Realtors
01:18:36 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
01:22:15 Tom Malone, Billings Realtor, Member Billings
Economic Development Committee
01:24:02 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

EXHIBIT (tah33a02)

EXHIBIT (tah33a03)

EXHIBIT (tah33a04)

01:34:32 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Businesses

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:37:03 REP. ROSS
01:37:35 REP. HIMMELBERGER
01:39:31 REP. LAMBERT
01:40:53 REP. PETERSON
01:49:27 REP. ROSS
01:50:55 REP. WISEMAN
01:57:57 REP. RASER
02:00:23 REP. BALYEAT
02:01:33 REP. PETERSON
02:02:38 REP. BUTCHER

Closing by Sponsor:

02:05:39 REP. GARY BRANAE (D), HD 54, closed the hearing on
HB 551.

02:07:38 Break
02:18:57 Resume

HEARING ON HB 554

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:19:24 REP. LLEW JONES (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on
HB 554, Tax easements for hunting, fishing,
sports, and conservation.

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a08\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a09\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a12\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a13\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah33a14\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:44:48 JERRY O'NEIL, SD 3
02:47:09 Commissioner Johnson, Pondera County
02:48:58 Everett Snortland, Retired Farmer, Conrad
02:49:48 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
02:50:27 REP. WAYNE STAHL, HD 35

Opponents' Testimony:

02:52:10 Rock Ringling, Montana Land Rights
02:52:39 Mona Jamisen via letter
[EXHIBIT\(tah33a15\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

02:52:46 Dolores Cooney, Montana Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:55:36 REP. ROSS
02:56:20 REP. COHENOUR
03:02:56 REP. BUTCHER
03:04:51 REP. WAITSCHIES
03:08:51 REP. BUTCHER
03:09:53 REP. WISEMAN
03:13:31 REP. COHENOUR
03:15:05 REP. GROESBECK
03:18:05 REP. LAMBERT
03:19:10 REP. WISEMAN

Closing by Sponsor:

03:21:08 REP. LLEW JONES (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on
HB 554.

[EXHIBIT \(tah33a16\)](#)

HEARING ON HB 571

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:29:10 REP. PAT WAGMAN (R), HD 62, opened the hearing on
HB 571, Revise property taxes by reducing state
equalization aid levy.

[EXHIBIT \(tah33a17\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah33a18\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

03:33:24 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, MEA/MFT
03:37:58 Joe Lamson, representing Montana State
Superintendent of Public Instruction, Linda
McCulloch

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:39:02 REP. COHENOUR
03:42:22 REP. RASER
03:43:14 REP. McALPIN

Closing by Sponsor:

03:43:33 REP. PAT WAGMAN (R), HD 62, closed the hearing on
HB 571.

03:46:13

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:50 P.M.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

KW/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah33aad0.PDF](#))